

EAST BAY LABOR JOURNAL

THE ONLY OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF ORGANIZED LABOR IN ALAMEDA COUNTY

OWNED, CONTROLLED and PUBLISHED by AFL CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL of ALAMEDA COUNTY and BUILDING and CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL of ALAMEDA COUNTY

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REPORT To Our Readers - Owners

EDITOR'S 9 YEARS

With this issue of East Bay Labor Journal the undersigned completes nine years as editor and commences his tenth year. It is pleasant to write this with our newly installed big Duplex press heard throbbing back there in the big machinery room of the building into which we moved some months ago. For it means that from now on we have a complete plant; we not only do our own printing by linotype and by what remains of handsetting in a modern newspaper, but also our own presswork for the paper.

An editor's habit caused the use of the word "we" in the above paragraph, but of course it is Joe W. Chaudet, our general manager, who is responsible for pulling the paper out of the financial mudhole into which it had fallen while he was away serving as Acting Postmaster of Oakland. Joe has toiled ceaselessly at the job of getting us into the new building, lining up the new equipment, and getting a solid financial base established.

However, I'm talking about my nine years here, not Joe's—for he's been here a lot longer than that.

THOSE 10 YEARS!

As I've said before on these annual first-person occasions, I told Joe when I came over here, and it had been decided that East Bay Labor Journal was to be operated in a new way:

"I'll take ten years to make it the kind of paper we'd like to be."

Now, as the tenth year begins, I keep wondering if that statement, which seemed perhaps pessimistic at the time, may not have been a little on the optimistic side. For as we keep progressing, and making the paper better known in wider circles as something a little out of the ordinary (we hope) in labor journalism, we keep—and that "we" includes both Joe and myself—we keep expanding our ideas of "the kind of a paper we'd like to be."

So just give us another hundred years and you'll see something!

PROGRESS, 2 FRONTS

During these nine years we've made real progress on two main fronts:

1—Our readers have grown accustomed to our publication of news which doesn't merely boost or serve as "good public relations for labor"—in other words, to our coming nearer to printing the facts, let the chips fall where they may, than many labor papers do.

2—Our readers have grown more accustomed to vigorous editorial comment, home-made, hand-made, not clipped for safety's sake from some official labor source of light and leading.

I think, as I have said over and over, both in print and in conversation, that in organized labor, as in other organized groups in this land of the rather free and somewhat brave, there's too much herd-like conformity, not enough independent thinking and speaking, too many yes-men, too many touchy big shots. And I think it's the job of a labor editor to try to do his bit to break up these incrustations of mental and moral indolence.

Self-pity and self-praise constitute, I think, a scrawny diet for grown men and women individually, or collectively in the labor movement. Self-analysis and self-condemnation are a good meat for any diet, individual or collective.

I hope that in my tenth year as a labor editor I won't find that the long desired and hoped-for labor unity results in a grandiose centralized self-pity and self-praise machine run by big per capita aggregations with a high hand and a low aim.

Fraternalty yours,
LOUIS BURGESS

Machinist's Play Set for Saturday

"The Accident," a play written by William Brownell, member of Machinists 284, portraying the reactions of individual workers to an accident in a metal fabricating plant, will be produced by the Unity Players at Washington school in Berkeley, 8:30 p.m. Sat., March 3.

40,000 Police In AFLCIO; Machine Paper Hysterical

The Knowland machine threw itself with hysterical fury this week into an attack on the AFLCIO Policemen's Union in Oakland.

A series of articles in the machine paper was launched, detailing what were declared to be remarkable achievements under the present police regime.

In the Tuesday issue the machine paper proclaimed in its headline over a top position editorial that "Oakland Citizens Resent Charge They Are Abusing Police Officers," a "charge" no labor people had heard of being made.

In the editorial the machine organ went on to follow the traditional anti-union line by asserting that "members of the department would be obligated to take orders from a local business agent, or those issued by an international president, thousands of miles remote from this city."

The attack wound up with the declaration that "the position taken by Chief Vernon is supported by the great majority of policemen . . . and has the overwhelming endorsement of the general public."

The method of canvassing "the general public" for its opinion in the matter was not reported.

Labor people interested in the attitude of Oakland Police Chief Vernon and City Manager Thompson toward the union formed in the police department have furnished East Bay Labor Journal with a list of the 73 cities and counties in the United States which already have policemen organized in the AFLCIO State, County and Municipal Workers Union.

The list includes some large cities of the West, with population greater or around that of Oakland.

Using 1950 census figures, which give Oakland a population of 384,000, here are some of the larger Western cities in which the police are organized in unions:

Denver, 415,000 population
Seattle, 467,000
Portland, 373,000

In Washington State, besides Seattle, here are cities and towns where the police are members of unions: Tacoma, Port Angeles, Vancouver, Puyallup, Grays Harbor, Benton, Everett, Yakima, and Spokane. Sheriff's men organized in Washington State counties include: Snohomish, Spokane, Clark, Kitsap.

Jumping over to the Midwest, St. Paul, Minnesota, with a 1950 population of 311,000 has police unionized, as well as Duluth in the same State, with a population of 104,000.

Similarly, there are towns where the police are organized in Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio, Connecticut.

And since one doesn't usually think of the Old South as a highly unionized area, it's interesting to note some of the States where there are police unions: Virginia, Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, North Carolina.

In Arkansas, for example, the capital city, Little Rock, with a population of 102,000, has a police union.

In addition to the 73 cities and counties which the AFLCIO State County and Municipal Workers Union lists as having "locals composed entirely of police officers," there are 46 cities, towns, counties, or areas which have locals of that union "which have reported police officers in membership."

In this list it is to be noted that policemen in the San Francisco Emergency Hospital Service are included, and those at the University of California in Berkeley. In addition, there are police officers in places all over the country.

Dan Scannell, international representative of the union, says that altogether there are some 40,000 policemen organized in the nation.

(Note: See editorial on page 4 about the unionizing of policemen and firemen)

"WHY WOMEN VOTE IN Britain," the talk to have been given earlier by Mrs. Ruth Kingman, which was postponed because of the surprise visit of Adlai Stevenson to the February meeting of the County Democratic Women's Study Club, will be given at a luncheon of that group at the Robin Hood Inn, 55 Grand avenue, Oakland, at 12:15 noon Wednesday, March 7.



Organizing of Police Union Is Strongly Backed by BTC

The Building Trades Council at its last meeting strongly backed the action of the Central Labor Council in organizing Oakland policemen as a local union of the State, County and Municipal Employees.

The matter was brought up by T. J. Roberts, Engineers 39, fraternal delegate to the Central Labor Council, who reported on the backing given by the CLC to the efforts of its secretary, Robert S. Ash, to organize the policemen.

BTC President J. S. (Blackie) Miller noted that when Police Chief Vernon said that no policemen would be allowed to join a union, City Manager Thompson stood with him on it. If this attitude is sustained toward policemen, said Miller, very soon we'll have the city authorities taking the same attitude toward the union of firemen, which has existed for many years.

Roberts remarked that the first union organization of firemen in the United States was formed in the 16th Street firehouse here.

Delegates Flanagan and Wheeler, Carpenters 36, said they regretted seeing a little dictatorship get established in the Oakland police department. President Miller remarked that the various associations which Chief Vernon in his peremptory order to the police mentioned as permissible were of the order of company unions.

BTC Business Representative J. L. Childers said that the move toward organization came from the rank and file of the policemen themselves, and that this had happened since Vernon became head of the force. The chief and the officers from lieutenant on up were running things with a high hand, and there was much dissatisfaction among the men.

It was generally agreed that the Central Labor Council will push the drive to organize the policemen, and that the BTC will back it strongly. A strong letter of protest to Chief Vernon, City Manager Thompson, and the Oakland City Council was authorized.

BTC CONTRACTS

Contractors reported signing BTC contracts included: Ken Marioka, C. F. Felicetto, Edward J. Dolan, cement mason work; Manuel Marques Jr., sewer work; Richard Ramirez, plastering; Albert H. Briggs, Alexander Pratt, general contractors.

CREDENTIALS

William Ward presented credentials and was seated as a delegate from Lathers 88.

FLOOD RELIEF

BTC Secretary John Davy read a communication from C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer, State Federation of Labor, requesting that unions which have contributed flood relief money to Red Cross or other welfare agencies directly, notify him of such contributions, so that they can be credited to labor.

MUSEUM SITE

Childers said he had as a member of Mayor Rishell's special committee on the subject helped in the search for a new site for the Snow section of the Oakland Museum; the present site is to be excavated for a huge parking place by the Kaiser interests. He said the committee examined the old boiler house and the old theater of Oakland Auditorium as possible sites.

PICKETS PLACED

Childers reported on the picketing of a Briggs & Workman job, and an Alexander Pratt job, this latter on com-

Jurisdiction for New Machines Is Won by Printers

In 1888, when the International Union was only some three decades old, the New York Tribune put in the first line-type for newspaper use. At that time it was freely predicted the union would break up because all its members knew was the skill of setting type by hand. But the union members turned in and learned how to run the new machine, and the ITU still has jurisdiction over typesetting, whether by machine or hand, in practically every newspaper in the country.

Sunday, 70 years after those events of 1888, another classic milepost in the history of the union was reached in the East Bay. For at a meeting lasting over 4 hours, Oakland Typographical Union 36 accepted a contract, the negotiating of which occupied several months. This contract gives the union jurisdiction over the operators of any kind of a machine which is coming in, or may in the future be coming in, to replace or supplement the linotype.

Since there are a great many devices being invented to change the skills used in printing, this clause of the contract as just won here, and being won over the nation, is considered of great historic importance by members acquainted with industrial development in the United States.

RANDOLPH ENDORSED

At the same meeting Sunday endorsements of candidates for officers of the international union were made, and for trustees and agent of the Union Printers Home, and delegates to the AFLCIO convention and the Trades & Labor Congress of Canada. Under the rigidly democratic procedure of this oldest of American unions candidates for international office are endorsed by each local, and the winners nationally and in Canada go on the ballot for a referendum to the total international membership.

In Local 36 Sunday the administration candidates, backed by the Progressive party in the ITU, won the highest votes for the top offices, as follows:

President — Woodruff Randolph 128 votes; L. H. Victory 30; Jesse M. Mambek 3.
First Vice President — Charles M. Lyon 123; John R. Evans 26; J. M. Magnuson 18.
Second Vice President — Harold H. Clark 133; Donald S. Bertram 32; Landon W. Ferrell 2.

Third Vice President — Joe Bailey 142; C. N. Salter 25.
Secretary-Treasurer — Don Hurd 142; George Bante 23.

Board of Auditors — Jack M. Gregory 113; Howard C. Murray 16.

Both Third Vice President Joe Bailey and Secretary-Treasurer Don Hurd are Bay Area men, Bailey former secretary of San Francisco-Oakland Mailers 18, and Hurd former (Continued on Page 4)

Insurance Agents Run Into Problem

W. J. Foley, Insurance Agents 219, told the Central Labor Council this week that negotiations being carried on by the union with the Prudential Insurance Company on a national scale are not going very well. The company is trying to get control of the bulletin board of the union, he said, among other roadblocks to a good agreement. The company wishes to permit only notice of union meetings to appear uncensored, and everything else to pass the company inspection before being posted up.

"We may have to strike again, little as we wish to do so," said Foley, "and if we do go out we earnestly ask for your support."

Foley added that for 4 years he has been pleading with the delegates to get their unions, and individual members, to ask for an insurance agent's union card before dealing with him, but so far, he said, there had been few results from his pleading.

Central Labor Council Secretary Hit by Cold

Central Labor Council Secretary Robert S. Ash was compelled to go home, suffering from a heavy cold, Monday afternoon. Proceedings at the council meeting that night were cared for by Assistant Secretary Richard Groulx.

APRIL 12 DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR VOTING IN THE JUNE PRIMARY

April 12 is the deadline for registering to vote in the June elections.

If you failed to vote in the last Statewide primary election, and if you also failed to vote in the general election, then you have to re-register.

In order to register, you have to have been in the State one year, in the country 90 days, and in the precinct 54 days.

County Clerk Jack Blue reminds you that you can register in any firehouse.

Labor Candidates In Hayward, Also 1 in San Leandro

The attention of the Central Labor Council was called this week by Roy Woods, Hayward Culinary 823, to the fact that two labor men are running for places on the Hayward City Council: Floyd Attaway, bus-



MRS. MARION HAGEMAN

ness representative of Local 823, and Manuel Castro, secretary-treasurer, Cannery Workers 768.

Also, President Larry Ross of Commercial Telegraphers 208 wishes to remind all readers of East Bay Labor Journal that Marion Hageman, wife of CTU Regional President George Hageman, is running for the school board in San Leandro.

Mrs. Hageman is a university-trained teacher and administrator, with experience as a teacher in the second, third, fourth, and fifth grades. The Hagemans have a daughter, Ruth Ann, a sophomore at the University of California; another daughter, Laura Jean, a junior at San Leandro High School; and a son, John, in the fourth grade at the Thomas Jefferson Grade School.

Woods in speaking to the CLC delegates said that both Castro and Attaway have excellent chances of being elected to the Hayward City Council, but that it is essential assistance be given to organized labor in the southern end of the county in the campaign.

Fair Optic Firms Listed by Union

Optical Technicians 18971 continues to wage its struggle with the big optical outfits which have locked all members out, following the strike of the union against the Wooster Company in San Francisco.

Richard Groulx, assistant secretary of the Central Labor Council, told the delegates to that body this week that it is possible that in the near future the strikers and locked out people may make certain disclosures which they have been reluctant to make. They hope to avoid this through achieving a reasonable contract within the near future, but so far most of the companies are resistant. The union suspects that some oculists and optometrists in Oakland are deliberately sending customers to the places which they know to be struck or waging a lockout against the union.

The union calls attention to the following, who are fair employers in this industry in Oakland: Dr. E. W. Laine, Permanent Optical Laboratories, Dr. M. M. Brenesell, Dr. Samuel J. Mann, Dr. Thomas Peters & Associates.

These employers, says a statement by the union, "employ skilled union technicians, who are anxious to maintain the high standards of workmanship that union technicians alone can provide."

Les Moore Urges Labor To Be Industrious In Welfare Work

Earnest discussion of the failure of organized labor to play the full part to which it is entitled in management of community welfare matters marked this week's meeting of the Central Labor Council.

Leslie K. Moore, Auto & Ship Painters 1176, made a report on his experiences as a member of the budget committee of the Community Chest, and in conclusion recommended that more labor people actively and industriously participate in the affairs of the various agencies served by the Chest and the entire Crusade.

Jeffery Cohelan, Milk Drivers & Dairy Employees 302, strongly stressed the importance of Moore's recommendation, called attention to the fact that Samuel H. Thompson, Alameda County Welfare Director, is retiring from that post, and said that it is vital to have labor alert to all that goes on in the handling of welfare funds, whether public or private.

Delegate Hernandez, Berkeley Teachers Union, said that since Moore's report had brought out the great part labor people play in making the contributions for welfare work, it would seem as though labor could of itself launch its own "youth movement," giving young people guidance, recreation, and useful activities. President John F. Quinn said that this suggestion would be referred to the CLC executive committee.

Roy Woods, Hayward Culinary 823, testified that the experience of his own local showed how helpful it is to a union's public relations to take active part in civic or welfare work. He cited the fact that every year Local 823 takes over the job of supplying entertainment at a USO affair. Food and entertainment, including music furnished through an arrangement with the Musicians Union, make these affairs so memorable, he said, that many people in Hayward, when they hear Local 823 mentioned, say at once that they know that local, because it's the one that puts on those fine USO shows.

When Moore stated that he wished to make a report on the budgeting work of the Chest, President Quinn invited him up front to use the microphone.

Moore explained that he wasn't going to read all the documents, but that he did feel the delegates should hear in detail just what amounts of money had been assigned to the various welfare agencies, since the delegates represent the working people who contribute the bulk of the funds.

He then read the entire list of agencies receiving allotments from the fund which is gathered every year, with the amount each received.

"There are five sections of the budget committee which makes these allotments," said Moore, "and there ought to be some labor man on each one of them, but there isn't."

He attributed this, not to any exclusiveness or hostility on the part of other groups, but to labor's own relative indifference.

"There ought to be a labor man active on the board of directors of every agency," said Moore, "and such people should not only be active on their own agency, but they should make a reasonable effort to get on the budgeting committee and other places where the voice of labor is needed."

Moore said that like any worthwhile project, it does involve work, and that recently he had put in 9 half-days toiling on the budget with other members of the committee.

Cohelan said that there are many young men and women in labor unions now, and even in the union labor leadership, who don't know what a depression means, who have never experienced unemployment, and consequently have little idea of the importance of the subject on which Moore had been talking.

Only One Holdout In Apple Battle

Every employer but one in the Sebastopol area has now signed an agreement with the Teamster-affiliated Cannery Workers local union there, or is prepared to negotiate for a contract with the union when 30-day notice of disaffiliation from the anti-union California Employers Association has been lived up to.

The one holdout is the Hallberg Company, a fairly large operator.

Startling Safety Record of Paper Industry is Topic

A. W. Hannaford, international representative of the International Brotherhood of Paper Makers, announces that a joint labor-management safety conference of the Pacific Coast pulp and paper industry will be held in Seattle on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of next week.

Hannaford, who has been an international representative since 1938, and permanently located in his home town here since 1944 in that capacity, says there are more plants in this area in which members of his union work than many people realize.

It is expected that there will be some 500 union and management representatives at the conference, from Oregon, Washington, and California plants. The remarkable record of the Pacific Coast industry in reducing its industrial accidents in the past 10 years will be reviewed.

A statement by the Pacific Coast Association of Pulp and Paper Manufacturers says of the safety program that "it is a prime example of what can be done in reducing human suffering and increasing productivity when enlightened men from labor management join in a cooperative venture for the common good . . . It has reduced accident frequency by 85%, to the place where it is safer to work in a Pacific Coast pulp and paper mill than it is to stay at home."

Among those who will be present in Seattle are Paul L. Phillips, international president of the union Hannaford represents, and John P. Burke, international president of Pulp, Sulphite, and Paper Mill Workers. Governor Langley of Washington will be an honored guest.

Pointing out the number of local plants in this neighborhood affected by the safety program, Hannaford mentioned the two big fibreboard plants at Antioch, the big one at Stockton, the Crown-Zellerbach bag plant now being built at Antioch, the Johns-Manville Products roofing paper plant at Pittsburg, the Quaker Container Corporation at Richmond, and the Certainteed Products roofing paper and building paper plant there, and the Royal Fibre Co. at Santa Clara.

Linoleum Layers' Apprentice Course

Linoleum Layers 1290 have reopened an apprenticeship training course at Oakland Junior College, Financial Secretary Charles Garoni reports.

The course got under way February 15, with Bill Schirmer teaching Mondays and Wednesdays, and Frank Jimenez Tuesdays and Thursdays. There were 36 applicants for the 4-year apprenticeship course.

The excellent new test book and the test book put out by the State is the basis of the course, union officials said.

Harlan Collins, an employer, is chairman of the joint apprenticeship committee, and Garoni is secretary. The other labor members are G. A. McIntire, business representative of Local 1290, and Howard Childs. The other employer members are J. M. Vann and James Benedetti.

OFFICIAL NOTICES

The following unions will find notices of important meetings called by their officers on page 3 of this issue of the Journal.

AUTO MACHINISTS 1546
SHEET METAL 216
STEAMFITTERS 842
CEMETERY WORKERS 322
UC EMPLOYEES 371
HAYWARD CULINARY WORKERS & BARTENDERS 823
BAKERY WAGON DRIVERS 433
HAYWARD PAINTERS 1178
SCHOOL EMPLOYEES 257
BERKELEY PAINTERS 40

HOW TO BUY

Tips on Possible Tax Savers

By SIDNEY MARGOLIS
Labor Consumer Advisor for Labor Journal

Higher-income taxpayers can employ experts who find for them all possible loopholes, or, as the high-priced tax counselors prefer to say, "alternatives." A wage-earner can't afford this kind of assistance.

Often, in this writer's experience he is fatalistic about his income tax anyway. It's already been withheld from his pay, he thinks he hasn't the knowledge to cope with the mystifying rules and the complicated long-form return, and so he simply sends in the short form which automatically gives him a ten percent allowance for deductions.

Result is, not only do many moderate-income families pay more tax than they need to, but a larger part of the nation's tax load is shifted on to them. In reality, working people often pay a greater share of the taxes than the tax laws theoretically envision they should.

Sydney Prerau, director of the J. K. Lasser Tax Institute which produces the well-known tax book, "Your Income Tax," is one expert with a good deal of sympathy for the tax problems of wage earners. In an interview with this department, he confirmed that in his experience too, many working people lose out on potential tax savings through lack of knowledge of the law.

He particularly has observed that many moderate-income homeowners tend to cheat themselves by the use of the short form, because they could take sizable deductions for property taxes and mortgage interest if they used the long form. Another group that often fails to take advantage of all their deductions are moderate-income church members who in some cases contribute heavily to their churches. Many wage-earners also overlook the full potentialities of the medical-expense deduction, Prerau notes.

Here are some important tips—although by no means a full list of potential tax savers—that you should keep in mind when you make out your return, due by April 15.

Get All Exemptions: Whether you use the short or long-form return, be sure to take all your dependency exemptions. You can't claim anyone as a dependent who has \$600 or more taxable income of his own for the year (except children under 19 or still in school). But many types of income are non-taxable, including Social Security, Railroad Retirement, state assistance, benefits paid to veterans and their families, accident and sickness benefits, insurance proceeds and unemployment insurance. Annuities and employer pensions are partly tax free. Thus a dependent may have over \$600 of income and still qualify as an exemption on your return, as long as you provide more than half his or her support. In measuring the amount of support you provide, count not only board but medical and other living expenses. Prerau reports that many people are still confused about

the recently-enacted multiple-support provision. If several people support a close relative but none contributes more than half his support, they can agree to let one take the exemption, and alternate as they want. The person who does claim the exemption must have contributed at least ten percent of the support, and the entire group, more than 50 percent. The others must sign a statement on a special form No. 2120 that they will not claim the same dependent.

In the case of children under 19 or still in school who have part-time or summer jobs, the parent can claim the dependency exemption even though the child files a return on which he takes an exemption for himself. A youngster or student who had a part-time or summer job from which tax was withheld should be sure to file a return to get his refund.

You are permitted the full \$600 exemption even if the dependent lived only part of the year, or was born even on the last day.

(Concluded next week)

Speaking of Clothes

Fur Upkeep

A fur coat that is properly cared for will last, on the average, a minimum of ten years. The observation has been made from records gathered over twenty-five years as a fur service specialist by Harry Jay Treu.

Mr. Treu includes these "do's" in a list of suggestions on fur care.

Wear a scarf at the neck and keep the fur from coming in contact with hair oil, necklaces, etc.

If forced to sit in the coat, open and lift it to prevent undue strain and bagging.

If the fur has been out in the rain, brush it with the grain of the hair and let it hang in an open space. If it has been soaked, take it to a furrier for expert attention.

Have any small rips mended quickly by a furrier so they don't increase in size.

Have furs cleaned and stored professionally.

A fur coat can cost less during its lifetime than some women spend on hats and shoes, says Mr. Treu. Taking a \$500 fur coat as an example, he calculates that yearly storage, cleaning repairs and two complete remodellings would total \$500 over a ten-year period, making the total cost of the coat \$100 a year. — New York Times.

Some Good Food

Pralines

- 2 cups light brown sugar
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/4 cup butter
- 2 cups small pecan meats

Measure the light brown sugar, water and butter into a 2-quart saucepan and stir over a low heat until the sugar dissolves and the mixture boils. Put in a candy thermometer and add the nutmeats. Boil slowly, stirring constantly until the temperature reaches 248°. Remove the saucepan from heat and immediately drop the mixture by tablespoonfuls on waxed paper or into greased muffin or patty pans. Makes about one and a quarter pounds.

Tell 'em you saw it in the East Bay Labor Journal.

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This handsome classic frock is so new and smart with its one-button closing, slanted detail. And it comes in a wide size range.

Pattern No. 8376 is in sizes 14, 16, 18, 20; 40, 42, 44, 46. Size 16, 4 1/2 yards of 35-inch; 1/4 yard contrast.

For this pattern, send 35c in coins, your name, address, pattern number and size wanted to Barbara Bell, East Bay Labor Journal, 367 W. Adams Street, Chicago 6, Ill.

Missouri is 21st State With a BTC

Establishment of the State Building Trades Council of Missouri was authorized by the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Dept.

A charter for the new group to represent basic craft unions in Missouri was issued after Pres. Arthur Hann and Sec. Joseph Cousin of the St. Louis Building and Construction Trades Council presented a petition signed by officers of other local bodies in the state requesting such action. Missouri now becomes the 21st state to have such an organization.

All local councils in Missouri signed the petition with the exception of those in Kansas City and St. Joseph, and Cousin expressed confidence that these bodies will affiliate with the new organization.

Cousin indicated the council will represent more than 50,000 workers in 19 basic trades in the construction industry. The St. Louis Council with 9,000 members, will be the largest component.

The functions of the group will be to aid smaller communities which have no local council, expedite settlement of jurisdictional disputes in an advisory capacity when requested and to further legislation.

An executive secretary will be named who will be largely concerned with labor legislation, serving at Jefferson City to aid organized opposition to anti-labor bills.

Richard Gray, head of the Building Trades Dept., expressed satisfaction at the chartering and predicted the Missouri group "should be a strong state organization." — AFLCIO News.

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To The Ladies FROM THE EDITOR

UNLICENSED BICYCLES will after May 1 "be subject to confiscation or juvenile court citation," says an announcement from the Oakland police.

The license costs 50 cents, and can be got at police headquarters, 14th and Jefferson Streets, or at any one of the 11 firehouses.

It seems to be assumed that owners of bicycles are the youngsters, and that adults don't ride them any more. Yet just the other day the wires from the East were hot with the announcement that Maryland Governor Theodore Roosevelt McKeldin is riding a shiny new green and white bike donated to him by some high school students.

The gift to the Governor followed a recent address at Annapolis in which Dr. Paul D. White, President Eisenhower's heart specialist, said that bicycling, of which Dr. White is a devotee, is an exercise conducive to health.

FOR JUVENILES it's decidedly not good for their survival unless more parents insist on the police rule being carried out that every bike must have a headlight and a red rear flash button when ridden at night. Motorists sometimes wonder why so many kids riding dark survive. Also, for adults pedestrians on sidewalks learn to ride a little more carefully on the said sidewalks.

BUT FOR ADULTS riding bikes it's a fine healthy exercise, and a bike will get you to most places within a mile or two of your home a lot more efficiently than an automobile. If Walter Reuther will permit us to say so. And there isn't the parking problem with a bike there is with a car.

Governor T. R. McKeldin rode his new bike around the capitol grounds, and seemed to enjoy it. Many another adult would.

Either walking or biking is a good way to get more time to think, if you have any interest in thinking your problems through, instead of just taking a mental dab at them while barely avoiding a car crash.

Women in Politics

Auxiliaries

Women in union families want full partnership with the AFLCIO in its work for accomplishment of labor's goals at all levels.

That's the view of the American Federation of Women's Auxiliaries to Labor as expressed at the organization's convention at the Hotel Morrison in Chicago.

Delegates pledged full support to the AFLCIO political campaign for 1956, pointing out that there are more women voters than men.

Mrs. Anna F. Kelsey, of Salt Lake City, president of the AFL auxiliary unit, named a committee to work out eventual merger with the National CIO Auxiliaries. Mrs. Lillian Sherwood of Grand Rapids, who heads the CIO women's group, pledged her organization's full support in working out problems leading to merger of the two units.

A resolution adopted by the convention calls for close cooperation with the women's division of the AFLCIO Committee on Political Education.

"There is great need to spread to the voting public information on the records of candidates and proposed legislative measures," the convention declared. — Chicago Federation News.

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Wage Rates Given For Many Jobs In S.F.-Oakland Area

Office salaries in the San Francisco-Oakland area increased almost 5 percent in the last year according to Max D. Kossoris, Western Regional Director of the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Hourly rates for both skilled maintenance and unskilled plant workers were up about 4 percent.

These preliminary estimates of wage and salary trends in the Bay Area are based on the Bureau's annual January study of selected office, professional, maintenance, powerplant, custodial and material moving occupations in the 6-county San Francisco-Oakland Metropolitan Area — Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Solano counties.

Although general wage changes are believed to have been primarily responsible for the movement in earnings, other factors such as labor turnover and changes in employment among establishments with different pay levels, may also have contributed to or limited the amount of the estimated increase.

In the occupations studied, salaries of women in Bay Area offices ranged from an average \$50 a week for routine file clerks to \$79 for secretaries. General stenographers averaged \$68.50 and key-punch operators \$63. In other important office occupations, women payroll clerks received \$71, comptometer operators \$65, and switchboard operators \$63.

Average earnings for men in most skilled maintenance occupations were \$2.45 an hour or more. Hourly pay averages were \$2.68 for tool and die makers, \$2.55 for automotive mechanics, and \$2.50 for carpenters, machinists and pipefitters.

In the lower skilled custodial and material moving jobs, average rates ranged from \$1.54 an hour for men elevator operators to \$2.46 for drivers of heavy trailer-type trucks. Other truck drivers earned \$2.26 on light trucks, \$2.35 on medium trucks, and \$2.38 on heavy trucks other than the trailer type. Material handling laborers averaged \$2.03 an hour.

Industrial nurses, one of the professional and technical occupations included in the survey, averaged \$78.50 weekly. Salary rates for junior draftsmen were \$75, senior draftsmen \$94, and draftsmen leaders \$118.50.

Conference Held About Automation

LOS ANGELES (AFLCIO) — Acceptance by union workers of automation will depend in great measure on the steps taken by industry and government to solve the problems of unemployment and industrial dislocations created by introductions of automatic machinery.

This was the point given the most stress by speakers at a two-day conference on automation co-sponsored by Los Angeles State College and the Central Labor Union and Industrial Union Council of the metropolitan area.

More than 450 AFLCIO unionists from a variety of industries took a long look at the situation developing from the rapidly increasing trend toward automation.

CHESTER BARTALINI, Carpenters 36, secretary of the Bay Counties District Council of Carpenters, has been appointed a member of the advisory council of the Bay Area Pollution Control District.

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Women in This World

By EDITH McCONN

WOMEN AT LAST have won the right to vote in Egypt. But Mme. Doria Shafik, leader of the Daughters of the Nile, a feminist movement, refuses to rejoice over the matter.

Women are still barred from holding public office, and in many other ways lack the rights and privileges of women in western lands.

For one thing, under Moslem law, women have few privileges. Moslem men may divorce their wives, but women have no right to file for divorce. Premier Nasser never takes his wife to public functions.

Thus we see that whatever the feminists of this country had to undergo in order to secure the vote for women, it is nothing at all to the age-old prejudices against women that Moslem feminists have had to combat.

Somehow, though, the world moves faster these days, and it would not be surprising to see far more rapid progress made in the emancipation of women in Moslem lands than we have had in the something more than forty years that we have had the franchise here.

After all these years, many women still do not register and vote. (This is true of many men also.)

What is more, after these many years, we still have very few women in public office. If some city turns up a woman mayor, it is a headline story. We have a few women in Congress, but disgracefully few. The same is true of state legislators.

It is true that women are doing more and more of the spade work in the political parties.

But shouldn't more women run for office? Should more women hold office? Do we women lack confidence in ourselves, or are we just plain lazy?

Perhaps a little of both. Perhaps we need to think a bit more of what these women of Moslem lands face in their fight for the franchise.

And perhaps we need to recall from time to time, the struggle the women in our own country went through to get for us the rights we enjoy today.

Food Prices Same January '54 & '55

The January level of average food prices in San Francisco was down 2 percent from December and identical with that of January 1955, according to Max D. Kossoris, Western Regional Director of the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The food price index was 112.3, with the average monthly price level for 1947-49 equaling 100.

Changes over the month were relatively slight. The greatest change was in the price of meats, which averaged 1.1 percent lower.

Building up 28.3% In County in '55

In Alameda County, according to the Bay Area Council, there were 9812 residential building permits issued during 1955. This is an increase of 2163 permits or 28.3% over the 1954 total.

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8th Dist. Demos to Hear Teacher Talk

"Do School Teachers Become Reactionary—Politically?" will be the topic of an address by Lyman H. Penning, Oakland school teacher, member of the staff and faculty of the Oakland Army Terminal, and business representative of the East Bay Council of Public Employees, Saturday evening, February 25th, at 7208 E. 14th Street in Oakland.

This meeting, starting at 8:00 p.m., is sponsored by the Democrats of Eighth Congressional District, and is open to the public. Coffee and doughnuts will be served.

Kefauver List for Primary is Named

Kefauver slate delegates selected by congressional district caucuses throughout northern California for the June 5 presidential primary were announced recently.

Northern California members of the Kefauver statutory committee, according to Lyle Cook, Northern California Kefauver campaign chairman, are Mrs. Clara Shipper, Democratic National Committeewoman for California; Harley Hise, Northern California treasurer of the Kefauver campaign; Mrs. Catherine Everett, Eleventh Congressional District Kefauver chairman; and himself.

State Council of Carpenters Meets

With more than 300 delegates in attendance, the 28th annual convention of the California State Council of Carpenters opened in San Jose Wednesday—the largest gathering in the history of the Council.

The convention was preceded the day before by a meeting of the Carpenters' State Apprentice Committee. The Ladies Auxiliary of the Council is meeting simultaneously.

CONSUMER BOYCOTT against the American-produced motion picture "Daniel Boone," has been launched by the Hollywood AFL Film Council, which charges the picture was filmed in Mexico solely to avoid paying American union wages to technicians.

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Steamfitters 342: Big D. C. Meeting

By JIM MARTIN

From all indications the United Association local unions will be well represented at the second annual national legislative conference to be held in Washington, D. C. on March 5 to 8. General President Peter T. Schoemann, in his letter requesting all local unions to participate in this conference, said in part:

"The purpose of the conference is to further the legislative program of the Building Trades Department."

The delegates will, as they did last year, explain to the Senators and Representatives in Congress the position of building tradesmen on the proposed amendments to the Taft-Hartley Act and the Davis-Bacon (prevailing wage) Act.

Also, we wish to impress upon all Congressmen our interest and concern with the early enactment of legislation to provide adequate housing, school construction and highway construction.

An officers' meeting will be held March 26, in Hall "D" of

the Labor Temple at 8:00 P.M. We request that all officers be in attendance at this meeting.

The Thirty-Sixth Convention of the California Pipe Trades Council will be held in San Jose April 27, 28 and 29. The State Association has been advised that General President Schoemann and other international officers will be in attendance at this convention.

The work situation has declined due to an explosion at the Associated Oil refinery in Avon. It will take thirty days to clear the damage and make arrangements to replace equipment lost. There were three hundred men, representing all crafts, laid off on this job. Ninety of these men were steamfitters.

Members who belong to the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, please forward dues to our office before the 25th of each month.

Please check your dues book and try to attend at least one meeting a month.

'Decided Upturn' In '55 Bargaining Levels Reported

WASHINGTON (AFLCIO) — A decided upturn in bargaining settlement levels during 1955 and gains "at least comparable" in the months immediately ahead is seen in the first issue of Collective Bargaining Report, published by the AFL-CIO Dept. of Research.

Increases in wages and benefits negotiated last year, the report said, were significantly larger in almost all industries than in the preceding year.

The report will be issued on a regular monthly basis.

While settlements in the early months of 1955 were at relatively modest levels, the sustained pickup in economic activity brought wage raises several cents larger than at the start of the year and in depressed 1954.

Typical wage increases negotiated since last spring have been from seven to 12 cents an hour, with a sizable number running to 15 cents and more. A review of several thousand contracts shows the following (apart from fringe benefits): Over 90 percent were 5 cents an hour or more; almost 70 percent were 7 cents or more; almost 40 percent were 10 cents or more.

Duration: Although most contract terms continue to be one year, there was an increase in the number of agreements for more than a year, most of them providing for wage re-openers.

Guaranteed wage plans: Company-financed plans were negotiated for the first time on a major scale to assure workers of certain payments in the event of layoffs, principally in the auto industry.

Health and welfare benefits: Improvements have been widespread with the notable trends apart raised benefit levels have been widened medical coverage, extension of coverage to workers' families and reduction or elimination of workers' contributions.

Pension plans: The adoption or liberalization of these plans have brought benefit levels to the point where covered workers can look forward to payments with social security of \$140 to \$200 per month.

Paid holidays: More than 15 percent of reported settlements called for additional paid holidays, normally to make a total of 7, 8 or 9 more. The days before Christmas and New Year's were widely adopted in many agreements last year for the first time as half or full holidays with pay.

Scoggins Scraggs The Postal Plum

Verne Scoggins, former press secretary to Earl Warren when he was Governor of California, has been appointed to the \$14,800 post of director of the Post Office's regional office in San Francisco.

Regional offices were set up by the Republican Administration with the announced intention of increasing efficiency despite remarks by Democrats implying that they were established to create more jobs for "deserving Republicans."

Scoggins, formerly a Stockton newspaperman, was at one time a member of the State Public Utilities Commission, and recently has been running a public relations office in San Francisco.

Jack Shelley for Adlai Stevenson

Congressman John F. Shelley of San Francisco, former president, State Federation of Labor, Fifth District Democratic Congressional Representative, has announced his "complete support" of Adlai E. Stevenson for President.

At the same time, Shelley advised Attorney General Edmund G. Brown, Stevenson's California campaign chairman, that he "would consider it a privilege to be a member of the Stevenson slate" on the June 5 California Primary Election ballot.

Certain Socalled Services Studied

A committee to investigate the operations of employers' "services" which by various devices resist what labor considers legitimate claims for unemployment benefits has been appointed by Central Labor President John F. Quinn.

The suggestion for an investigation was made by Russ Crowell, Cleaners 23.

The committee consists of Al Brown, Milk Drivers 302; Joe Canale, Bartenders 52; Paul L. Jones, Laborers 304; Crowell; and Dick Groulx, CLC assistant secretary.

ALAMEDA TEACHERS get the lowest starting pay of seven comparable school districts in the Bay Area, says a report presented to the Alameda school board.

1,930,000 KILLED or disabled by on-the-job injuries during 1955, reports U. S. Labor Department.



East Bay Automotive Machinists 1546

Official notice of Special Called meeting, Monday night, March 5, 8:00 p.m. Civic Auditorium Theater, Oakland. Your attendance will be fully appreciated. Purpose of meeting is to act on the following proposed amendments to agreement between your employer and your Union: (1) Wages (2) Hospital and Welfare Insurance (Permanente) (3) Overtime (4) Pensions (5) Legislative Matters.

Fraternally,
A. J. HAYES,
Recording Secretary

Sheet Metal Workers 216

Death Assessments No. 385 and 386 are now due and payable. Brother John Paulsen, No. 123169, a member of Local No. 216 passed away on January 10, 1956 and Brother Max Sieg, No. 9031, a member of Local No. 104, San Francisco, passed away on January 26, 1956.

Fraternally yours,
LLOYD CHILD,
Business Representative

Steamfitters 342

The Thirty-Sixth California Pipe Trades convention will be held in San Jose April 27, 28 and 29. Registrations for delegates were opened March 1. Closing date for registrations will be March 22. First reading of registrations will be held March 15. The second reading of registrations and the election of delegates will be held at the special called meeting of April 5.

Yours fraternally,
JAMES MARTIN,
Fin. Sec'y. Bus. Mgr.

Cemetery Workers Local 322

Your negotiating committee will report on progress at the March meeting Tuesday, March 6, 8 p.m., in Hall L, Labor Temple, 2315 Valdez Street. Please attend this important meeting.

Cordially and fraternally,
EDWARD REITH,
Business Representative

UC Employees 371

Our regular monthly meeting will be held Saturday, March 10, at the Labor Temple, 8 p.m.

Installation of officers will be held, and selection of delegates for the second annual conference of AFSCME to be held March 16-17 at the Hotel Leamington in Oakland; also delegates for the international convention in Detroit April 23 through 27. Each and every member should attend.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the members who attended the February meeting, one of the best we ever had. Now, let's keep up the good attendance!

Yours fraternally,
WALTER N. RENYER,
Secretary-Treasurer

Hayward Culinary Workers and Bartenders 823

The regular meeting will be held Tuesday, March 6, at 9 a.m. at Local 823 headquarters.

Fraternally yours,
ROY WOODS,
Secretary-Treasurer

Bakery Wagon Drivers and Salesmen No. 432

Quarterly meeting will be held Tuesday, March 13, at 7:00 p.m. in Hall M, 3rd floor of the Labor Temple, 2315 Valdez Street, Oakland.

As per By-Laws, a penalty of \$5.00 shall be imposed for non-attendance.

Your attendance is urgently requested. Please be on time.

Fraternally yours,
LES BENHAM, Sec'y-Treas.
Business Representative

Hayward Painters 1173

The next meeting is Friday, March 2, same time, same place. An increase in attendance has been noted the past several meetings. Believe it, brothers, we would like to see this action on your part continue at every meeting.

For your information, after the second meeting of each month has been dismissed, there will be a get-together meeting of those in attendance where we can visit, discuss various subjects, and best of all—get acquainted. See you there boys, eh?

Fraternally yours,
ROBERT G. MILLER,
Recording Secretary

School Employees 257

The next regular meeting will be held March 3 in the Labor Temple, 2315 Valdez Street, at 2 p.m. Executive Board meets at 10 a.m.

At the last meeting it was voted to increase the initiation fee to \$10.

Yours fraternally,
JOE FALLS,
Secretary

Berkeley Painters Local 40

There will be no meeting February 24th due to officers and business representative attending the State Conference of Painters. The next meeting of Local No. 40 will be held Friday, March 9.

Fraternally yours,
BEN RASNICK,
Recording Secretary

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March 15th Party For ALL Theater Unionists in Area

By JOE CONNELLY

Brother Jack Craig, Business Manager of Theatrical Stage Employees' Union Local 107 I.A.T.S.E., chairman of the Alameda and Contra Costa Counties Theatrical Federation 2nd Annual Dinner-Dance has asked for space in this column today.

Brother Craig points out that on the evening of March 15, 1956 members and friends of organizations affiliated with the Theatrical Federation will meet in the small ballroom of the Oakland Auditorium to renew old acquaintances and make new ones.

He promises a live orchestra, excellent cuisine, at a cost of only \$2.50 per person.

Members are reminded that this is not a money making affair, and that the affair could not possibly be held for that price if it were the desire of the Federation to only break even. Actually the Federation is prepared to underwrite an anticipated loss.

Unfortunately for many of our members this date falls on the one night of the month that we have a night meeting scheduled for 11:30 p.m. Regardless of what night it is held someone would be inconvenienced. It is unfortunate that this date was selected when so few nights of the month are devoted to night meetings by any of the component members organizations of the Federation.

This is one affair where no pressure is used to sell you on attending. It is your loss if you miss it. Of course our members in many cases may care to take advantage of either the 2nd Wednesday meeting on March 14, 1956 at 10 a.m. or the 4th Saturday meeting on March 24th at 10 a.m.

Brother Craig also points out that recent editions of East Bay Labor Journal gave the impression that this was a stagehands party rather than for the Federation which is composed of Operators, Billers and Bill Posters, Theatrical Janitors, Musicians as well as the Stagehands and our local.

Govt. Lodge 1533 Now 3 Years Old

The Naval Supply Center Lodge 1533, American Federation of Government Employees, will observe its 3rd birthday anniversary Monday, March 5, at the Labor Temple, 2315 Valdez St., Oakland, California. There were 342 charter members.

The lodge's membership is now nearing the 1,000 mark. The greatest majority of the members are from the Naval Supply Center, located at the foot of Seventh Street in Oakland. There are members of other government agencies that belong.

The AFGE is a union for the Federal Government employees (postal employees have their own unions).

Lodge 1533 meets at the Labor Temple on the second Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m.

Tell 'em you saw it in the East Bay Labor Journal.

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Legislature Goes In Session Next Monday, March 5

The concurrent sessions of the Legislature, the budget session and the special session called by Governor Knight, begin next Monday, March 5, in Sacramento.

Assemblyman Carlos Bee, Democrat, 13th District, who has been working on analysis of the budget as a member of the Ways & Means Committee, says in his letter to constituents:

"The Assembly Ways and Means Committee has concluded its two weeks hearings on the Governor's Budget of one billion seven hundred million dollars. There were some additions to the budget and also some cuts in the budget approved by this Committee. The budget is now being presented to the Senate Finance Committee where it will probably undergo many more cuts before it is presented to both Houses when they convene next Monday March 5.

You might be interested to know that we spent nearly a full day in listening to testimony regarding an appropriation of four million dollars for the 1960 Olympic Games at Squaw Valley. . . I still am not sure as to whether I will vote for or against the measure, and would appreciate hearing from people in the District who would care to comment because we will not take action on this measure until March 8, after the Budget Session of the Legislature convenes.

"I am happy to see that the Governor has called a Special Session to run concurrently with the Budget Session on the matter of water here in California. As you know, the 1955 Session did not enact any real water legislation, and I feel that this is a must for our State. I am afraid, however, it is going to get into the same old hassle between the North and the South and between the counties of origin and the South, but let us hope that this Legislature will act wisely and not get into a regional or political hassle over a problem that is so critical to the welfare of the people of California.

"You might be interested in another budget item that will certainly amaze you, as it did me. The California Youth Authority will spend nearly ten million dollars next year to house 2,400 wards in eight schools at a cost per ward of approximately \$3,600, one of the highest per capita costs of all our varied State institutions."

Tech Engineers 39 In Survey Course

Secretary-Treasurer Jack E. Taylor, Technical Engineers 39, announces that there commenced Wednesday, February 29, 1956 at Oakland Junior College a course in "Field Surveying and Construction" sponsored by the American Federation of Technical Engineers together with the Oakland Municipal Civil Service Employees Association of the City of Oakland.

Course: 16 meetings 7:15 to 9:15 p.m.—Wednesdays; Registration Fee: \$2.00 for 16 meetings; Course Fee: \$5.00 for 16 meetings; Instructor: James E. McCarty, Supervising Civil Engineer.

Watchmakers to Choose Delegates

By GEORGE F. ALLEN

As anticipated in last week's column, all the San Mateo County agreements are signed and in the office.

Credentials for the coming international convention to be held in New York City during the third week of May, have just been received. We will have to elect two delegates to attend this convention.

In the meantime, the organizing assessment is being sent into the office and by the time we return from the convention, we will be in a position to decide our future actions relative to organizing.

REMINDER! Please pay your monthly assessment when you pay your current month's dues.

SAN JOSE MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 6th at 8 p.m.—Labor Temple, 45 Santa Teresa St., San Jose.

San Jose members must pay their February assessment with their March dues.

Way is Clear for GAW, Says Despol

"The recent decision of Attorney General Edmund G. Brown qualifying workers under supplemental unemployment benefit plans also to receive state unemployment compensation means that UAW, AFL-CIO, employees of Ford are over the top and can now obtain benefits under the negotiated 'Supplemental Unemployment Benefit Plan', according to John Despol, California CIO Council legislative representative.

He added: "It also means that all members of the United Steelworkers of America, AFL-CIO, and of Auto who are now or will be covered in the near future by supplemental unemployment benefit plans will obtain the full benefit of such plans. These plans are sometimes known as the 'guaranteed annual wage.'"

CALPAK has withdrawn from the Processors & Growers Assn. so it can bargain separately with the Teamsters in a dispute over a pension plan.

PASSENGER CAR REGISTRATIONS in Alameda County increased by 18,985 during the past year, boosting the total to 321,346 says the Oakland Chamber of Commerce.

Theater Local 107 Mar. 15 Reminder

By WILLIAM PELKEY

There is a lack of union matters to write about this week so I will pass along what little bits of interesting news I have heard and seen, before I forget. John Craig our fearless B. A. asked me again to mention our dinner dance that will be held on March 15 at the Oakland Auditorium ballroom at 9:00 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at the office of the motion picture operators in the Orpheum Theater Bldg. on Broadway, or by contacting John Craig, Howard Botoroff and Howard Goss, also the B-local will have them on sale.

You may have heard the story of Minnie the Moocher, kicking the gong around. Well, she had nothing on Lorin Abbott, who had trouble with a gong the other night, Saturday to be exact. Somebody forgot to count, what with earphones acting up, and one thing and the other I'm surprised the show went as smoothly as it did.

The show incidentally was the annual Shrine ceremony, the show itself was very good, but the thing that amazed me was the unique way they took up a collection for the Children's Hospital, with the auditorium almost full of people, it would have taken a considerable amount of time to take up a collection in the usual way so they simply had the people throw the money on the floor, and believe me it was raining money in the Oakland Auditorium Saturday night. I threw a nickel myself.

The announcer said it would be better if they would wrap the silver in five dollar bills as it would not hurt so much if it hit anyone, and the money coming from the balcony may have caused a few bumps. For a cause like this it was worth a bump.

Harry S.: Thanks for the card.

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OPINIONS

LETTER RAPPING NEGRO ANSWERED

Editor: Labor Journal:

The letter defending racial segregation in the February 17 issue of the Journal represents at attitude too bigoted to go unanswered.

First, the writer should have been honest enough to admit we kidnapped Negro men in Africa, forced them to cross an ocean chained together in stinking cattle boats, sold them into slavery, and forced them at gun-point to produce cotton and other crops on the plantations of the Old South. This dubious "advance" in their status was not generally appreciated. Our next "humanitarian" act was to kidnap Negro women in Africa and bring them here to breed more slaves as an economic measure. We replaced their loin cloth with a guano-sack shirt.

We did not permit any education for the Negro in the South until after the Civil War. Since then it has been pitifully inadequate. We didn't "give" the Negro anything. They pulled themselves up by their boot straps while we stepped on their necks. Yes, a few whites called upon the conscience of their fellow humans to end slavery and stop racial discrimination, but in truth the men who produced the cotton forced the issue and won.

Whether Abraham Lincoln was assassinated for what he said in 1859 or did in 1865 is hardly debatable. He is remembered for the Emancipation Proclamation and preserving the Union.

Reference to biblical authority is a refuge of saint and sinner. The practice of racial discrimination by religious groups is gradually being abandoned with ample authority.

Our culture also includes discrimination against Italians, Indians, Mexicans, Filipinos, Chinese, Japanese, Jews and anyone else who had something our robber barons wanted. But our culture is rather young—it is not too many generations back to the feudal lords of Europe and our vassal—ancestors.

Negroes are at the bottom of our economic ladder, but if that is better than African standards they have earned it—no body gave them anything—and they deserve more.

What most of us need is the courage to follow the dictates of our own conscience rather than the bigoted ignorance of someone with an axe to grind. We know what is right and just, that's why our democracy improves as time goes on. Future generations will wonder where our common sense was when they read of racial antagonisms we tolerate.

C. L. JOHNSON,
Member, Millmen 550
★ ★ ★

RACIST

Editor, Labor Journal:

You have my applause for your American spirit and intestinal fortitude, in publishing the controversial article by Mrs. M. Reese on racial segregation.

These people could have integrated themselves a long time ago if they had wanted integration. They want to dominate not integrate.

In an arena at the stadium in Rome centuries ago stood two men who had been freed from Roman slavery, one a savage, blond and the other a Black man.

Both went back to their own countries, the blond is now feared for his intelligence and he is still the savage, the Negro is still the savage without any more intelligence than he had centuries ago.

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EDITORIALS

Police Union All Over U. S. But Vernon Is So Surprised!

Back in October of last year when the firemen in Berkeley were conferring with Central Labor Council Secretary Robert S. Ash about the possibility of forming a union, City Manager John D. Phillips was reported by the Berkeley Gazette to have told some of the firemen that "if local firemen decided to affiliate with a union a series of conferences would have to be held to make sure the union wouldn't work against the city's best interests."

He added, according to the Gazette that "firemen should be completely unbiased and have no outside ties in order to operate in the best interest of all residents of the community."

The editor of East Bay Labor Journal telephoned City Manager Phillips and asked if the Gazette account of what he said was correct. Mr. Phillips replied that it was, and added:

"I suggested to the firemen that they should not by any commitment they have be in a position where they might be influenced to take sides in law enforcement and protective work."

The Berkeley firemen went ahead and organized, and are now affiliated with the Central Labor Council. The Berkeley Gazette, the Oakland Tribune, and all other papers covering Berkeley have been singularly silent about these unionized firemen standing by and laughing when an employer's residence burns down, or taking their axes and smashing up machinery in factories which happened to catch fire. Certainly if any such things had occurred, both of those esteemed newspapers would have given them plenty of publicity. Fact is, of course, the unionized firemen of Berkeley have continued to go about their business of preventing fires and putting out just as they always did in the past.

Many years before the Berkeley firemen organized, Oakland firemen organized their union, and their delegates have long been well known in the Central Labor Council. Fires are prevented, fires are put out in Oakland with never any holding back because of unionization.

Yet when Oakland Police Chief W. W. Vernon learned that Oakland policemen were conferring with Secretary Ash about the forming of a union, he got that old cracked record out which City Manager Phillips of Berkeley had played through a trumpet in October, and played it all over again in February. The words vary here and there, but the music is the same, the sour notes are the same.

Also, the facts are the same—that all over the country, and right here in California, policemen are organized in unions, just as firemen are, and have gone right on performing their duties. The list of cities and counties in which law enforcement officers, police and sheriff's deputies, that is, are organized in unions is published on the first page of this issue of East Bay Labor Journal. San Jose, California, for example, and San Bernardino, and Portland in Oregon, and Seattle in Washington, and Denver in Colorado. Many more. Have you read anything in the daily press—always eager to print anti-union stuff—about the police in any of the cities named in our front page list rioting or setting fire to employers' homes, or refusing to carry out their duties on the ground that they're union men? Of course you haven't!

Yet City Manager Wayne Thompson, backing up the stand Chief Vernon takes, evidently likes the sound of that old cracked record played by City Manager Phillips of Berkeley also.

This same cracked record was played by the big newspaper publishers when the newspaper writers began organizing two decades ago. The freedom of the press would disappear. The unionized writers would sneak their bias into their news accounts. Etcetera, etcetera. Now, after more than twenty years of unionized newspaper writers, just read the average daily, and try hard if you can to detect the pro-union bias! Actually, these big Republican papers are staffed by unionized writers who, 90 percent of them, are Democrats and liberals, not Republican reactionaries as are the owners of those papers.

The answer in the case of firemen, policemen, newspaper writers, is the same: unions are not organized to take over and run the business or agency by which they are employed; they are organized to improve the working conditions of the workers, and to prevent petty and cruel straw-boss dictatorships from wreaking spite on workers bent on doing a good job for the business or agency.

As a matter of fact, as every student of American history knows, time was when any effort to organize a union in any business whatever was treated and prosecuted as "conspiracy" and those "guilty" of it were sent to prison.

Those days are gone, but they seemingly survive in the minds of Chief Vernon and City Manager Thompson. We suggest they stir from their nightmare, hitch up their galuses, and start walking right into the middle of the Twentieth Century.

Indicted for Not Riding a Bus!

It was bad enough in Alabama when a mob formed and drove a student off the campus, but when people are indicted for not riding a bus that seems to get up toward astronomical heights of unAmerican violation of civil rights.

Labor people please note that it is under an old anti-boycott law that this idocy is being performed. That should alert us to the fact that when the rights of one group are violated, the rights of many others are affected. If the reactionary rulers of Alabama can use that law against Negroes who are tired of riding in segregated buses they can use it against any union group which is tired of having some employer kick it around.

The case of these people persecuted for not riding buses will, we hope, be watched by AFL-CIO's legal staff, and participated in on the defense side.

Let's Get the Boy Running



Jurisdiction for New Machines Is Won by Printers

(Continued from Page 1)
secretary of Oakland Typographical 36.

Bailey attended the meeting Sunday, being on the coast assisting negotiations in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

In addition to the vital clause on jurisdiction over new types of machines, advances are made in pay and conditions in the new contract for both newspaper workers and job shop workers.

NEWSPAPER PACT

The newspaper contract runs from October 30, 1955, to February 28, 1958. From the beginning until October 29, 1956, journeymen's pay is increased \$4 per week, bringing it to \$114.85 a week; after that until December 29, 1957, pay is increased an additional \$2.75 per week; after that the pay stays the same but working hours are cut 15 minutes daily to 7 1/4 hours, reducing the present 37 1/2-hour week to 36 1/4 hours.

The present 3-week vacation to be taken in the summer is changed from the beginning of the contract to a 3-week vacation, 2 weeks of which can be taken in the summer and 1 week in winter if the individual so desires. Also, if a holiday, when on a newspaper the printer is required to work half a day, falls on a man's regular day off, he can take a half day off some other time to make it up.

JOB SHOP PACT

The contract covering workers in job shops, the so-called commercial contract, runs from December 19, 1955 to February 28, 1958. From the beginning until January 16, 1956, there is a \$2 weekly increase, bringing journeymen's pay to \$114.25. From January 16, 1956 to December of the same year there is an additional \$1.75 weekly, bringing the pay to \$116.00 per week.

Beginning September 30, 1957, there is the same reduction of the working time to 7 1/4 hours a day as in the newspaper contract.

The commercial contract also contains the important jurisdiction clause, the 7 paid holidays, and the 3-week vacation clause that is in the newspaper contract, said Secretary Jack Austin of Local 36.

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Praise for Ike on Gas Veto Rejected Organizing Union Of Local Police

The Central Labor Council recently turned down a proposal made by Jack Kopke, Paint Makers 1101, that a letter be sent to President Eisenhower congratulating him on vetoing the natural gas bill which would have raised the price to consumers.

Ernie Mulgrew, Teamsters 70, supported the proposal, saying that it was a good thing the President vetoed the bill, and he should be praised for it.

Joe W. Chaudet, Typographical 36, and Jack Strelow, Sugar Workers, opposed the sending of such a letter, Chaudet saying that in effect, the President said, "Look, boys, it's all right to steal, but please do it legally," and Strelow pointing out that the President is for the basic principles of the bill.

Kopke wound up the debate by insisting that "in this State we have two Republican Senators who voted for the bill; let's praise the President for vetoing it."

After his proposal lost, with some votes, however, for it, Kopke caused a laugh by calling out:

"All right, then, let's send a letter to the President telling him we're SORRY he vetoed it!"

Telegraphers to Hear Pr. Hardeman

Larry Ross, president, Commercial Telegraphers 208, is pounding on the big drum to get good attendance at two important membership meetings.

The first is March 7 at 7 p.m. at the Palace Hotel, Comstock room in San Francisco. The second is the next day, March 8 at 1 p.m. in room 916, Pacific building, 821 Market street, San Francisco.

For the first meeting, free transportation leaves 13th and Broadway at 6:15 p.m.; for the second, it leaves 12th and Oak at 12:15 p.m.

National President Hageman will report in person at these meetings contract negotiations.

NO LOCKOUT of workers permitted to other members of an employers' group if a union strikes one member, U. S. Court of Appeals ruled in New York recently.

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Finance Wizards Don't See Point On U. S. Freedoms

DENVER (AFL-CIO) — To practically nobody's surprise, the two big financiers to whom the Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers turned for support in their fight to preserve the sanctity of private enterprise won't give it.

The reason, perhaps, is that the fight is directed against the Texas Co., which is pretty big—financially and otherwise—itself. It was touched off when the company sought to bar ownership of any form of interest in any other oil or gas firm to employees of its Port Arthur, Tex., refinery.

OCAW Pres. O. A. Knight asked Chairman Joseph C. O'Mahoney (D., Wyo.) of the Senate Anti-Monopoly Subcommittee to investigate the company's order. The senator agreed on the ground that the union had made a prima facie case of "violation of the economic independence of the Texas Co. employees."

CURIOUS IDEA

Knight also sought the backing of Pres. G. Keith Funston of the New York Stock Exchange and Winthrop H. Smith, managing partner of the nationwide investment brokerage house of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Beane.

Smith refused to take any stand, claiming the matter is "a purely internal one." Funston, however, came up with a curious idea.

Instead of putting their money in the industry they know best, or holding on to things like oil rights they may have picked up before going to work for Texas, the firm's employees, he said, might "acquire shares in General Motors, General Electric, American Telephone & Telegraph or any of the many other big and successful corporations which have no competitive interest in the petroleum field."

CAN'T AGREE

Funston told Knight he did not "agree with your feeling that the Texas Co. is discouraging its workers from investing merely because it forbids them to own interests in oil and gas leases and other mineral developments."

Knight and the union, because they had asked O'Mahoney to investigate the Texas Co. stand, were belabored mightily by Reuben V. Anderson, president of the Wyoming Farm Bureau.

He demanded that O'Mahoney, instead of investigating the Texas Co., investigate something he called "labor leader monopoly."

Tell 'em you saw it in the East Bay Labor Journal.

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We Borrowed More Than We Saved, So We—But Read It!

We've checked a score of labor union economists in Washington and they predict that things will be "pretty good" in 1956, but—

Prices, and production will rise slightly. Unemployment will increase even with higher production. If business slows down or slips for any length of time, unemployment can snowball.

Less will be spent for autos, refrigerators, other hard goods; more (due to increased population) for food, clothing, etc. Overtime pay may be practically eliminated, but hourly wages will remain high.

Businessmen will buy less, clear overstocked shelves. Federal, state, and local spending will increase.

Farm income will continue to decline. All in all, people will spend less—because they'll have less to spend.

The economists agree our economy dangles on the three thin threads of autos, homes, and automation:

1—AUTOS: With 40,000 men in February out of work in Detroit, production may dip a million below last year and cause repercussions in glass, steel, and rubber.

2—HOMES: Tighter credit policies, and less money, can mean 200,000 fewer haciendas for the 'hoi polloi.

3—AUTOMATION: New techniques make it easier for fewer people to do more. Employment increased 3 percent last year, but plants produced 11 percent more goods.

Trouble stems from the grand buying jag we went on last year.

We dipped into our rainy-day funds, borrowed a half billion more than we saved, and went into hock at twice our normal rate.

Now, we've got to get back in the black.

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